

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

DHA-02 IO-14 /068 W

-----026682 211405Z /43

R 210840Z JUN 77

FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6252

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 JOHANNESBURG 1584

CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SF

SUBJECT: PRESS REPORT: THE CITIZEN REPORTS ON US-SA

1. THE CITIZEN, JOHANNESBURG, TUESDAY JUNE 21, 1977, UNDER THE BY-LINE AIDA PARKER CONTINUES, AS PART 7, ITS SERIES ON THE SECRET US WAR AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA, AS FOLLOWS QUOTE:

'CULTURE' WITH A DANGEROUS POLITICAL PURPOSE. SINCE THE CITIZEN FIRST PUBLISHED DETAILS OF THE US INFORMATION SERVICE READING ROOM IN SOWETO, QUESTIONS HAVE BEEN ASKED ABOUT THIS FACILITY IN PARLIAMENT. REPLYING, THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MR " PIK" BOTHA, SAID HE KNEW NOTHING ABOUT IT. TODAY FURTHER DETAILS ARE GIVEN OF THIS READING ROOM WHICH, ONE US EMBASSY OFFICIAL EXPLAINS, IS PART OF THE AMERICAN " CULTURAL PROGRAMME". IT IS A " CULTURE" WHICH MOST EXPERTS AGREE COULD PROVE EXTREMELY DANGEROUS TO SOUTH AFRICA. THE CIA, THEY POINT OUT, ARE OLD HANDS AT THE GAME OF EXPLOITING " CULTRUE" FOR POLIT-
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ICAL PURPOSES.

THE READING ROOM WAS OPENED IN THE DONALDSON HALL, ORLANDO EAST, LATE IN NOVEMBER 1975.

EXTENSION

IT IS DESCRIBED AS AN EXTENSION OF THE MAIN USIS OPERATION IN SHAKESPEAR HOUSE, COMMISSIONER STREET, JOHANNESBURG. JOINTLY CONCERNED WITH THE CENTRE IS THE AFRICAN MUSIC

AND DRAMA ASSOCIATION (AMDA)

NO AMERICANS OR SOUTH AFRICA WHITES SERVE FULL TIME ON THE USIS-AMDA FACILITY, WHICH IS RUN BY TWO SOUTH AFRICAN BLACKS. WHEN ESTABLISHED, THE READING ROOM WAS PROVIDED WITH 600 BOOKS, MOST OF THEM DEALING WITH THE AMERICAN CIVIL RIGHTS STRUGGLE AND THE STRATEGIES USED BY THE CIVIL RIGHTS LEADERS. IN ADDITION, THERE WERE ABOUT 100 MUSICAL RECORDINGS, TAPES AND FILMS - AGAIN CONCENTRATING HEAVILY ON THE AMERICAN CIVIL RIGHTS EXPERIENCE.

THE FACILITY REMAINS OPEN TILL 10 P.. SO SAVING SOWETO RESIDENTS THE INCONVENIENCE OF TRAVELLING TO THE MAIN USIS LIBRARY. I HAVE SUCCEEDED IN TRACING THREE BLACKS WHO HAVE ATTENDED POETRY READINGS AT THE USIS-AMDA CENTRE.

ONE ATTENDED SUCH A FUNCTION ON APRIL 20 THIS YEAR. THERE WERE, HE SAYS, ABOUT 80 BLACKS PRESENT. "MAINLY", HE SAYS, "IT WAS POLITICAL POETRY READINGS, THE THEME OF THE WHOLE THING BEING BLACK LIBERATION. A LOT OF PEOPLE TOOK PART".

A SECOND BLACK TOLD ME: "MOSTLY THESE POETRY READINGS DEAL WITH THE LIBERATION OF THE BLACK MAN AND ABOUT THE WHITE MAN OPPRESSING THE BLACK MAN".

A THIRD BLACK, A PROFESSIONAL MAN, SAID HE WAS STARTLED AT THE UNCOMPROMISING HARD LINE ADOPTED BY SOME OF THE PERFORMERS. "I WONDER WHETHER THE WHITE PEOPLE IN THE USIS OFFICE IN TOWN REALLY KNOW WHAT IS GOING ON THERE?"

THIS MAN MADE THE INTERESTING OBSERVATION THAT COMPARATIVELY FEW FROM SOWETO ARE EXPOSED TO COMMUNIST TEACHINGS - BUT UNCLASSIFIED

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THEY ALL KNOW ABOUT THE AMERICAN CIVIL RIGHTS STRUGGLE AND THE FRENCH REVOLUTION.

PATTERN

I ASKED ANTHROPOLOGIST DR WILLIE BREYTENBACH OF THE AFRICA INSTITUTE IF HE COULD EXPLAIN THE RATIONALE BEHIND THIS USIS "CULTURAL" ACTIVITY IN SOWETO.

HE SAID "THE PATTERN WAS CLEARLY LAID DOWN DURING HIS VISIT HERE BY MR ANDY YOUNG.

IT IS

PART OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S CAMPAIGN TO RELATE THE EXPERIENCE OF SOUTH AFRICAN BLACKS TO THE AMERICAN CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT.

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UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 JOHANNESBURG 1584

CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, SF
SUBJECT: PRESS REPORT: THE CITIZEN REPORTS ON US-SA

"I MAINTAIN THERE IS NO RELEVANCE WHATSOEVER, CULTURALLY OR
ETHNICALLY, IN THE TWO EXPERIENCES.

" THE AMERICAN NEGRO IS VIRTUALLY DETRIBALISED AND WESTERNISED,
THE SOUTH AFRICAN BLACK IS NOT. EQUALLY, WHITE INTERESTS
WERE NOT REALLY AT STAKE IN THE US SOUTHERN STATES WHERE WHITES
WERE STILL NUMERICALLY STRONGER. IN SOUTH AFRICA IS JUST THE
OPPOSITE.

" BLACK POETRY, BLACK ART, BLACK LITERATURE ARE ALL BEING
USED IN THE ATTEMPT TO TRANSMIT THE THOUGHTS, MODES AND
BEHAVIOUR OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL RIGHTS STRUGGLE, SO THAT
SOUTH AFRICAN BLACKS CAN ACCEPT OR TAKE OVER SOME ASPECTS
OF THIS NEGRO EXPERIENCE AND IN SO DOING BE MADE MORE AND
MORE AWARE OF THEIR BLACK NEGRIKN
OLD CIA WATCHERS ARE NOT TOO SURPRISED AT THE SOWETO " CULTURAL"
DEVELOPMENT.

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"IT IS A CLASSIC CASE OF HISTORY REPEATING ITSELF," ONE FORMER
INTELLIGENCE OFFICER TOLD ME.

A FACILITY WITH A REMARKABLE RESEMBLANCE TO THE SOWETO
OPERATION OPENED IN LONDON IN JANUARY, 1962. THIS FACILITY,
KNOWN AS THE TRANSCRIPTION CENTRE, WAS ADVERTISED AS A " NON-
PROFIT MAKING ORGANISATION SUPPORTED BY A DIRECT GRANT FROM THE
FARFIELD FOUNDATION". IT WAS INTENDED AS " A CULTURAL CENTRE
WITH A READING ROOM AND INFORMAL ATMOSPHERE".

PROMINENTLY INVOLVED IN THE WHOLE EXERCISE WAS AN AMERICAN, MR MELVIN JOHN LASKY, A DIRECTOR OF TRANSCRIPTION FEATURE SERVICES, LTD. LASKY WAS ALSO A DIRECTOR OF ENCOUNTER, LTD, WHICH FINANCED SUCH AVANT-GARDE MAGAZINES AS THE BRITISH SOCIALIST PUBLICATION, ENCOUNTER. ODDLY ENOUGH, ENCOUNTER WAS ALSO FINANCED BY THE CIA VIA THE CONGRESS OF CULTURAL FREEDOM, WHICH IN TURN FINANCED RONALD SEGAL'S AFRICA SOUTH AND AFRICA SOUTH IN EXILE.

AN ARTICLE IN THE JUNE 1966 ISSUE OF ANOTHER CIA-FINANCED JOURNAL, FRONTIER, PROVIDED SOME INTERESTING INFORMATION ON THE LINK BETWEEN THE CIA-SUPPORTED TRANSCRIPTION CENTRE AND AFRICAN CULTURAL ORGANISATIONS.

AUTHORS

WRITTEN BY THE HON ROBERT LODER, THE ARTICLE DISCLOSED THAT LONDON'S AFRICAN MUSIC AND DRAMA TRUST IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE TRANSCRIPTION CENTRE, WAS PRESENTING A SERIES OF AFRICAN PLAYS AT THE HAMPSTEAD THEATRE.

TWO OF THEM WERE AUTHORED BY WOLE SOYNIKA, JOIN EDITOR OF ANOTHER CIA CONDUIT JOURNAL, BLACK ORPHEUS.

A REPORT IN THE WORLD OF DECEMBER 1, 1975, DESCRIBING THE OPENING NIGHT OF THE USIS READING ROOM IN SOWETO, DISCLOSED THE POET SIPHO SEPAMLA READ A FEW OF HIS OWN COMPOSITIONS AND A SECTION OF A WORK FROM ANOTHER UNNAMED BLACK POET. SEMPALA'S MAY NOT BE A HOUSEHOLD NAME, BUT HE HAS ESTABLISHED UNCLASSIFIED

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A REPUTATION FOR HIMSELF IN CULTURAL AND LITERARY FIELDS. WHEN HE READ HIS POEMS AT THE USIS READING ROOM THE SECOND NUMBER OF A LITERARY MAGAZINE EDITED BY HIM HAD JUST APPEARED. THE PUBLICATION OF THIS MAGAZINE, NEW CLASSIC, ACCORDING TO AN EDITORIAL IN THE FIRST ISSUE, PUBLISHED EARLIER IN 1975, WAS MADE POSSIBLY BY "REMANANTS OF A GRANT FROM THE FARFIELD FOUNDATION". TO THOSE IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH THE SITUATION THINGS BEGAN TO TIE UP.

FUNDS.

THE ORIGINAL CLASSIC WAS PUBLISHED ENTIRELY ON FUNDS SUPPLIED BY THE CIA-SUPPORTED FARFIELD FOUNDATION.

CLASSIC HAD LONG SINCE DISAPPEARED- BUT APPARENTLY THE FARFIELD FOUNDATION HAD LEFT A FEW DOLLARS LYING AROUND, CONVENIENTLY AT THE DISPOSAL OF THE NEW CLASSIC.

IN THE SECOND ISSUE OF NEW CLASSIC THERE WAS A SMALL NOTICE SAYING A FEW COPIES OF THE ORIGINAL CLASSIC WERE STILL AVAILABLE AT AN ADDRESS IN DUBE AT R2 FOR FOUR COPIES, OR R4 FOR EIGHT COPIES.

LOOKING THROUGH NEW CLASSIC, THE READER IS IMMEDIATELY STRUCK BY THE FACT THAT MANY CONTRIBUTORS HAVE, ALMOST CERTAINLY UNWITTINGLY, OFTEN BEEN IN TOUCH WITH CIA-FUNDED INSTITUTIONS IN THE PAST.

ONE SUCH CONTRIBUTOR APPEARED BOTH IN THE ORIGINAL CLASSIC AND IN NEW CLASSIC, AND IN NEW AFRICA CASUALLY MENTIONED THAT HE RECEIVED AND USED A " FARFIELD FOUNDATION FELLOWSHIP TO STUDY LITERARY TRENDS IN AFRICA".

THE CIA'S LINKS WITH BLACK " CULTURAL" ORGANISATIONS ARE CLEARLY LONG AND DEVIOUS.

MANY PARLIAMENTARIANS ARE EXTREMELY INTERESTED, INDEED, IN THE USIS OPERATION IN SOWETO AND THE IMPACT THAT OPERATION IS HAVING ON LOCAL BLACK THINKING.

TELLING EXAMPLE

ANTHROPOLOGIST DR WILLIE BREYTENBACH, OF THE AFRICA INSTITUTE, PROVIDES A TELLING EXAMPLE OF AMERICAN DOUBLE STANDARDS AS APP- UNCLASSIFIED

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LIED TO SOUTH AFRICA.

"FREEDOM HOUSE, A LIBERAL INSTITUTION IN NEW YORK, IN ITS SURVEY OF FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS IN 1976, LISTS NO FEWER THAN 17 AFRICAN STATES IN THE CATEGORY OF " LEAST FRPE STATES" IN THE WORLD.

" SOUTH AFRICA WAS LISTED IN A CATEGORY THREE TIMES HIGHER THAN THE " LEAST FREE" NATIONS - BUT ONE IS STILL ANXIOUSLY AWAITING AMERICAN ATTENTION TO THE PROBLEM OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THOSE 17 OTHER AFRICAN STATES", HE SAID UNQUOTE. KIRBY

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